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RAY (470)

OPN. (AP)-JAMES W. HILL RAY HAS CHARGED IN A FEDERAL SUIT THAT HIS FORMER LAWYER AND BIOGRAPHER WERE MORE INTERESTED IN MONEY THAN IN HIS RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL.

RAY ASKED FRIDAY THAT AN ESTIMATED \$1 MILLION WORTH OF CONTRACTS WITH HIS BIOGRAPHER, WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE OF HARTSELLE, ALA., AND HIS FORMER ATTORNEY, PERCY FOREMAN OF HOUSTON, TEX., BE NULLIFIED.

RAY IS SERVING A 99-YEAR SENTENCE IN TENNESSEE STATE PRISON HERE AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO A MURDER CHARGE IN THE APRIL 4, 1968, SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. IN MEMPHIS.

THE SUIT WAS FILED BY ROBERT HILL JR. OF CHATTANOOGA, ONE OF RAY'S ATTORNEYS IN CIVIL MATTERS. LATER FRIDAY, HILL OBTAINED A FEDERAL COURT ORDER TO SEE RAY AFTER HARRY S. AVERY, STATE CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER, REFUSED TO LET THE ATTORNEY ENTER THE PRISON.

U.S. DIST. COURT JUDGE WILLIAM E. MILLER ISSUED THE ORDER AFTER AVERY SAID RICHARD J. RYAN OF MEMPHIS, WHO IS SEEKING A NEW TRIAL FOR RAY, IS THE ONLY ATTORNEY OF RECORD IN THE CASE.

RAY'S SUIT CONTENDS HE WAS PERSUADED BY FOREMAN INTO PLEADING GUILTY, THE SAME GROUNDS HE CITED IN ASKING A NEW TRIAL.

THE SUIT SAYS:

--THAT AFTER RAY WAS PERSUADED TO SIGN OVER TO FOREMAN WHATEVER RIGHTS HE HAD TO INFORMATION ABOUT KING'S DEATH, FOREMAN HAD A "STRONG MONETARY INTEREST IN HAVING HIS CLIENT FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO AGOAYR RMOR MEN

MSENTENCED TO A 99-YEAR-TERM FOR A CRIME WHICH HE DID NOT COMMIT."

--THAT INFORMATION IN A LOOK-MAGAZINE ARTICLE BY HUIE "EVEN IF... TRUE, WHICH PETITIONER DENIES...

COULD HAVE BEEN BASED UPON STATEMENTS MADE TO HIS LAWYER, "UTHUS VIOLATING THE PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOREMAN AND HIS CLIENT.

--THAT FOREMAN WAS THE AGENT OF HUIE AND "WAS IN FACT LOOKING OUT FOR (THEIR) MONETARY INTERESTS, RATHER THAN THE RIGHTS OF THIS PETITIONER."

ATTACHED TO THE SUIT WERE THREE CONTRACTS WHH HILL ESTIMATED TO BE VALUED AT AROUND \$1 MILLION.

THE SUIT SAYS RAY NOW BELIEVES THAT NEITHER FOREMAN NOR HUIE "EVER INTENDED FOR HIM TO HAVE A FAIR TRIAL AND TESTIFY IN HIS OWN BEHALF, AS THIS WOULD THEN MAKE THE FAE AND TESTIMONY PUBLIC PROPERTY AND NO ONE WOULD OR COULD HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE MATTER..."

THE CONTRACTS WERE NEGOTIATED BY RAY, FOREMAN AND ARTHUR J. HANES OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., WHO WAS FIRST HIRED TO DEFEND RAY AGAINST THE MURDER CHARGE.

THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT GAVE RAY AND HANES 30 PER CENT EACH THE PROCEEDS FROM ANY BOOK OR MOVIE, WITH HUIE GETTING 40 PER CENT. AN AMENDMENT GAVE HANES \$35,000, FOREMAN 60 PER CENT AND HUIE 40 PER CENT AND THE REMAINDER TO RAY AND HIS FAMILY IF HE PLEADED GUILTY "AND NO EMBARRASSING CIRCUMSTANCES TAKE PLACE IN THE COURTROOM."

MEANWHILE, OFFICIALS OF THE SHELBY COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT IN MEMPHIS SAID AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED WEDNESDAY ON A HEARING DATE FOR RAY'S ATTEMPT TO GET A NEW TRIAL.

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